

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, drawings and claims 1-14 and 16-18 are amended. The claims are amended to correct typographical errors and/or antecedent basis issues. The amendments do not effect the patentability of the amended claims. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 12, 15, 18 and 20 are allowable if amended to correct the informalities as cited in the Office Action. As claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 12 and 18 are amended, these claims, and their allowable dependent claims, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 16, 17 and 19 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As claim 16 is amended, withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Accordingly, claims 16, 17 and 19, as well as claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 12, 15, 18 and 20, are in condition for allowance.

II. Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(i). Specifically, Fig. 12 and Figs. 17A-17D are identified as requiring correction. Fig. 12 is amended to provide the lead line for "702C" as required in the Office Action. Figs. 17A-17D are also revised to be labeled as individual figures 17A-17H, thereby obviating the objection to the drawings.

III. Specification

The substitute specification filed on January 12, 2004, was not entered for allegedly containing new matter in paragraph [0065]. The language identified in the Office Action is deleted from the attached substitute specification being filed currently herewith. As the substitute specification corrects the clerical and grammatical errors as indicated in the Office Action, acceptance of the substitute specification is requested.

The Office Action also indicates that paragraph 3, line 4, which recites "guides" should be changed to "guiding". This change has not been made as Applicants believe the recitation of "guiding" is correct.

The Office Action also indicates that Figs. 17A-17D should be separately described in the specification. The specification is amended to describe each of the separate figures now identified in Figs. 17A-17H.

The Office Action also indicates that the term "the opening ratio" is unclear as to what the quotient of the parameters are in "the opening ratio". The term "opening ratio" refers to a ratio (percentage) of an opening area relative to a total area of a mesh product which can be represented using the parameters A (length of a side of opening area) and d (diameter of wire). In a case of a square mesh product, the opening ratio may be derived from the following equation: $\text{Opening Ratio} = A^2 / (A + d)^2 \times 100$. The "opening ratio" is a term well known to those skilled in the art, as is the equation for calculating the opening ratio. For example, as may be discerned from the references attached hereto, an "open area is a ratio of the area of the open spaces between the wires to the total area of piece of wire cloth, expressed as a percentage." As the term "opening ratio" is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, no further explanation of the term is required.

IV. Examiner's Suggestions to Claim Language

The Office Action suggests changes to claims 11, 12, 16 and 18. Those changes have been incorporated into the amended claims.

V. Claim Objections

Claims 1-20 are objected to due to informalities. As the claims are amended in response to the objection, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

VI. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4, 10, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. As the claims have been amended in response to the rejection, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 4, 10 and 13 are amended in response to the rejection.

Regarding claim 14, the Office Action indicates that "the opening ratio of the filter" is unclear because the specification does not define what the quotient of the parameters are in the term. As discussed above, the opening ratio is a term of art well known to those of ordinary skill and therefore requires no further description in the specification.

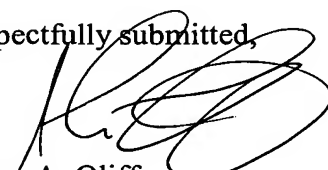
Regarding claim 16, the claim is amended in reply to the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/rle

Attachments:

Replacement Sheets
Internet printouts (2 pages)

Date: March 28, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 12 and 17A-D and replace original sheets with Figs. 12 and 17A-H.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets